

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 v.
12 Plaintiff,

13 SEDRIC MCNEAIR,

14 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR22-0025-JCC

ORDER

15 This matter comes before the Court on Defendant's unopposed motion to proceed with a
16 plea hearing by videoconference. (Dkt. No. 4.)

17 Under General Order 04-20, felony pleas and sentencing may proceed by video or
18 telephone conferencing if "the district judge in a particular case finds for specific reasons that the
19 plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of
20 justice." *See also* W.D. Wash. General Order 14-21 (Dec. 22, 2021) (extending the duration of
21 General Order 04-20).

22 Having thoroughly considered the motion and the relevant record, the Court FINDS that
23 further delay in the absence of a remote plea hearing would seriously harm the interests of
24 justice. The following reasons support this finding: (1) the parties have reached a plea agreement,
25 and not holding the hearing by videoconference or other remote means could unnecessarily delay
26 resolution of the case; (2) not conducting the plea hearing remotely could unnecessarily prolong

1 the present state of uncertainty; (3) and Defendant has been in custody for six months
2 anticipating this resolution and would like to move on with this matter. (See Dkt. No. 4 at 1–2.)

3 It is therefore ORDERED that the motion for a video plea hearing (Dkt. No. 4) is
4 GRANTED. The parties may contact the courtroom deputy for the criminal duty Magistrate
5 Judge to schedule the plea hearing if they have not yet done so. The Magistrate Judge is
6 DIRECTED to make a record of both Defendants' consent to a remote proceeding.

7 DATED this 3rd day of March 2022.

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John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE